

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Student Senate Meeting
Wednesday, February 8, 2012 VU 567**

Student Senators: *Present:* Kendall Bull (Chair), Jered McCardle, Ethan Glemaker, Katie Vainikka, Victor Celis, Christopher Brown, Ean Olsen, Jamie Hamilton, Amy Stavig, Matthew Yoo

Absent: Jacquelyn Gratias, Evan Fowler, Felipe Espinoza, Mason Luvera

Advisor: Lisa Rosenberg

Secretary: Marissa Jaksich

ASVP for Academic Affairs: Fabiola Arvizu (*absent*)

Guest(s): *Western Front:* Mollie Postma

Kendal Bull, Student Senate Chair called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm

S-12-W-13 Approval of the minutes of Wednesday, February 1st, 2012. *Passed*

I. Approval of Minutes

MOTION S-12-W-13 by Vainikka

Approval of minutes of February 1st, 2012

Second: Celis Vote: 9- 0 - 0 Action: **Passed**

II. Revisions to the Agenda

III. Public Forum

IV. Information Items

V. Action Items

VI. Discussion Items

A. Senate Reform Ideas

Chair mentioned that he is still waiting on a finalized date for a work session with the AS Board for senate reform. Yoo wanted to clarify what kind of senate reform senate was looking at, and the chair responded that they were looking into making senate more of a vital part of the student body and giving it some teeth. Yoo thought Senate could use more school presence. Olsen wanted to clarify what were some of the existing ideas for senate reform. The chair replied saying that they had discussed establishing 2/3 Senate vote on AS Board decisions. He also mentioned that they had talked about his position, as Senate Chair, being an elected position, but after being discussed, the idea was shot down. Olsen inquired how much time senators were willing to dedicate to senate reform and if they would be interested in tabling for student concerns and setting up a place to make senate more visible and available to students. Chair mentioned that senate scheduled to table the Thursday, but that since it was the day of the Winter Career fair, he decided to reschedule it to the following Thursday from 1-3pm on Vendor's Row. Celis really liked Olsen's idea, and thought it would be a really good idea, because it would give the senate more

connection to the students and could better address student concerns. Olsen talked to a friend on UW's student senate, about how they get constituencies represented from different clubs, departments, and organizations on campus. He thought this system would allow for people to know senate was out there and it would also help increase the diversity of opinions on Senate. UW is working on making it so that students would need to get a certain number of signatures to serve on senate as a constituency representative. The chair responded that the only problem with that is it was very hard to find people interested in Senate from various departments. Yoo brought the discussion back to tabling, and shared some ideas to be considered. He asked if they had any kind of senate merchandise and how senate currently markets itself. He thinks part of drawing people in to gather input is to have a good image. He believes senate reform could include branding reform such as marketing, posters, banners, and pamphlets. Hamilton suggested going to the publicity center. Olsen wanted to know what monetary resources were available to the senate to carry out Senate reform. The Chair responded saying that they have some money, but that the majority of it is reserved for the public forum Senate is required to put on. McCardle said that they had a Student Senate banner in the previous year but does not know where it would have gone to. Celis thought the communications office could help better establish the senate within the Associated Students. McCardle recommended that since it is really hard to get freshman senators that an idea for a reform would be to have positions elected in student hall council, so that there is a resident from each area of campus represented on senate. He believed Senate could be doing a lot more to make more of an outreach effort. Glemaker suggested having a RHA representative on senate could serve as a liaison to the residence halls. Stavig, suggested that she always gets flyers in the residence hall mail boxes that we could do something similar to spread the word. McCardle responded to Stavig's idea saying that some people just throw them away and that they can be ineffective sometimes. McCardle said that there were many other ways of reaching out to residence halls and that there are many publicity packages that Senate could look into for this purpose. Olsen suggested utilizing social media outlets like Facebook and twitter. This idea was received well by the rest of the Senators. The Chair said that Senate did, in fact, have a Facebook page, but that he needed to find the password for it. McCardle liked all the possibilities around a Senate Facebook page. He thought that Senate could post resolutions that senate was discussing on the Facebook page which could lead to more awareness of Senate. Olsen liked this idea because they would have the ability to click the share button. Glemaker suggested posting senate agendas in the AS review or Western Front to advertise to students what issues Senate is working on. Vainikka thought that senate should not just have discussions, but suggested that they bond on a more social level through playing a sports game, senators against the AS Board. The senators listed off many sport competitions senators could engage in to battle it out with the AS Board. Yoo reiterated that tabling would be good, but that it would be more beneficial to alternate between vendor's row and red square to increase outreach to the student body, and he feels this would make students more prone to give input. He also agrees that the senate could use some heavy marketing, because it seems Senate does not have much of an image, and it would be useful for Senate to create more of an image for itself. Vainikka suggested that posters that would catch a viewer's eye that prompted students to seek out Senate would be a good marketing idea.

VII. Board Reports/Concerns

VIII. Senator Reports/Concerns

Stavig reported Committee for Undergraduate Education (CUE) is currently rewording GUR descriptions.

McCardle reported SPAC was going over language and rough drafts of the recommendations that the AS offices under review submitted.

Brown reported that LAC, got an update from Joe, Western's lobbyist down in Olympia that they are placing emphasis on the two tax bills currently in legislation. He reiterated that there had been the cut off on all non-budgetary bills, which was a disappointment for all the shared governance bills that had been submitted. He mentioned that Iris, the AS Vice President for Governmental Affairs was wondering if she could get the Council's permission to send two people, instead of three, from the AS Board to Washington DC with President Shepard to lobby. She thinks it makes more sense to take some of that money and apply it toward sending a second person instead of only one to the United States Student Association (USSA) General Assembly. He also reported that Parking Appeals Board reviewed some biking or parking tickets. They were thinking that at the end of the year that they would make a report to give recommendations for better signage for parking locations and biking rules to better inform the student body.

IV. Other Business:

Chair added that the AS Board will be voting on the two resolutions at 3pm, and suggests senators to stand together in solidarity and support Senate's passing of the resolutions.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 7:07P.M.